

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the Hamilton High School Academy of Music for receiving a GRAMMY Signature Schools Gold award. The GRAMMY Signature School Awards are presented by the Naras Foundation, Inc., in consultation with a panel of judges composed of music educators and professionals. The Hamilton High School Academy is one of just 250 schools selected for this award nationwide.

The Hamilton High School Academy is a magnet school of the Los Angeles Unified School District, attracting students from throughout Los Angeles for its specialized music programs. Opening its doors in September 1987, the Hamilton High School Academy has provided a comprehensive music program to an ethnically and culturally diverse student body. The program includes coverage of instrumental, vocal, piano, and electronic music. In addition the school features intensive instruction in both the theory and history of music. The Academy also provides a full spectrum of academic classes, which are designed to meet the needs of all students.

The Hamilton High School Academy has received local, regional, and now national recognition. The GRAMMY Signature School Award is a testament to the academic and musical excellence of the Hamilton High School Academy of Music. •

BISHOP NICHOLAS HONORED BY COMMUNITY

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge His Grace Nicholas, Sovereign Bishop of the Diocese of Detroit, who was elected to the Episcopate by the Holy and Sacred Synod of Constantinople.

Bishop Nicholas was born in Glen Falls, NY, in 1953 to Emmanuel and Caliope Pissare. He attended Colgate University and was awarded the prestigious Colgate War Memorial Scholarship. He then attended the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating as the Valedictorian of the senior class in 1978 with a Master's Degree in Divinity.

Bishop Nicholas was ordained as Deacon on July 6, 1991. Then he was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Maximos where he was elevated to the rank of Archmandrite on the same day, based on his years of service to the church. He served as Diocese Chancellor of Pittsburgh from 1991 until 1995 and then Chancellor of the Diocese of Detroit from 1996 to 1997.

His Grace Bishop Nicholas of Detroit was elected to the Episcopate by the Holy and Sacred Synod of Constantinople and has been ordained in the Holy Cross Church of Brooklyn, New York. As of April 18, 1999 Bishop Nicholas began his Apostolic work in the Diocese.

Bishop Nicholas continued dedication to our community has had an immeas-

urable effect on the young and old alike. He truly is a role model of determination and spiritual leadership. I extend Bishop Nicholas the best of luck for his future. •

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR NELSON

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President I rise today to honor Arthur Nelson, of Goshen, New Hampshire, for his dedicated service to his town and the nation.

Arthur has been an important figure in the town of Goshen. His commitment to the community has not gone unnoticed. It is for this reason that he was chosen Honorary Parade Marshall in celebration of the founding of the Goshen Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1939, Arthur helped establish the Goshen Volunteer Fire Department. This was the beginning of Arthur's long and fulfilling career as a public servant to the town of Goshen. Since then he has served as fire warden for fifty years. During those years he had been known to strap on a backpack pump and search reported puffs of smoke. This intense devotion led him to successfully find, and extinguish, many wildfires.

In addition to service to the town of Goshen, Arthur has been an active participant in fire fighting in Sunapee, Croyden, Marlow and Grantham. His concern for the safety of his own community, and those of his neighbors, has brought Arthur a tremendous amount of respect from all who know him. All of these towns join Goshen in recognizing Arthur as a true hero.

Arthur's presence in the Goshen Volunteer Fire Department is not his only contribution to his community. He has been elected and served as a selectman, been a part of the Historical Society and served on the Conservation Commission. Arthur has also been an active member of the Goshen Community Church. Among all of his commitments, Arthur was also able to write a book in his spare time. Foundations of Old Goshen, published in 1980, in a history of the town he loves.

At age 91, Arthur can look back on a fulfilling life in the town of Goshen. His dedication to community service should be used as an example for others. I want to commend Arthur for his commitment to serving his town and country. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate. •

PROTECTING THE EARTH'S SOIL FERTILITY JUNE 17—WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, the gradual but accelerating loss of soil fertility and productive agricultural land worldwide may not be headline-grabbing news. But it is the kind of threat that, if not addressed, will exacerbate global problems of hunger, poverty, migration and conflict over local scarce land and water resources in the 21st century.

The process of soil erosion and severe land degradation, often referred to as "desertification," results from over-cultivation, deforestation, improper irrigation and drought. Most Americans are aware of the phenomenon from our own "dust bowl" in the 1930's when hundreds of thousands of farmers were forced to abandon their exhausted land. Today, dust bowls are occurring in more than 90 countries with an alarming annual loss of 10 million acres of productive agricultural land worldwide. Because of our own successful soil and water conservation programs, U.S. businesses, universities and non-governmental organizations have a crucial role to play in providing technical expertise and support to communities around the world that are fighting land degradation.

Today is World Day to Combat Desertification, which marks the fifth anniversary of a coordinated international initiative to address the land degradation problem. In recognition of this observance, I would like to share a recent Christian Science Monitor op-ed piece on the seriousness of land degradation in Africa written by His Excellency Mamadou Mansour Seck, Senegal's Ambassador to the United States.

I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

SHRINKING FORESTS—WILL U.S. AID IN THE GREENING OF WORLD'S "DUST BOWLS"?

(By Mamadou Mansour Seck)

As a young pilot 40 years ago, flying over my country of Senegal and across Africa's Sahel region, I remember looking down on vast stretches of green fields and forests. Today the view is of a yellowish brown landscape that's growing barren.

Like many African countries, Senegal is losing precious agricultural land to a process of soil erosion and degradation known as "desertification." It occurs when land that receives little or irregular rainfall is over-cultivated, overgrazed, deforested, or otherwise stripped of its soil-fixing vegetative cover.

Worldwide, with more than 10 million acres of farm land becoming unproductive each year, "dust bowls" are multiplying and raising legitimate concern about our planet's capacity to feed its rapidly growing population.

In Africa and elsewhere, desertification fuels a downward cycle of poverty and hunger, which leads to migration from rural areas to overcrowded urban centers including those in North America and Europe. Desertification can lead to conflict over scarce resources, threatening to undermine the progress Africa is making toward democracy and economic reform.

But desertification is not inevitable. The U.S. can play a larger role in stemming the tide by ratifying the Convention to Combat Desertification, already ratified by 150 other countries.

The 1994 Convention focuses on food security and poverty reduction. It also promotes African self-reliance, a shift from aid to trade, the sustainable use of natural resources, and the benefits of democratic participation.

The U.S. signed the treaty in 1994, and President Clinton, during his trip last year to Africa, reaffirmed U.S. support for it. But

U.S. interests in an economically healthy and politically stable Africa would be well served by ratification by the Senate.

The desertification convention provides a coordinated international framework to channel technical and financial resources to communities where the fight against the interrelated problems of desertification and poverty must be waged.

Under the treaty, developing countries must engage local communities and organizations of farmers, herders, women, and youth in a "bottom up" process to devise national action programs.

Senegal and other desertified countries around the world are now active in this joint public-private planning process. Senegal's capital, Dakar, recently hosted the Second Conference of Parties to the Convention, attended by more than 140 countries.

Much more progress could be made with the help of the U.S., which has successful community-based soil and water conservation programs and is recognized as one of the world's leaders on fighting desertification. The technical resources of American universities, research institutions, and businesses are urgently needed in the Convention-generated partnerships with communities around the world.

Unchecked, desertification will continue to foster food crises, poverty, conflict, migration, floods and other environmental disasters. No nation is immune from the consequences.

Africa's 750 million people look to the U.S. for leadership on many issues, and desertification is one of the closest to our hearts. We look forward to welcoming the U.S. as a full partner to the convention.●

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

On June 16, 1999, the Senate passed S. 1186, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2000. The text of the bill follows:

S. 1186

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, for energy and water development, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to rivers and harbors, flood control, beach erosion, and related purposes.

GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood control, shore protection, and related projects, restudy of authorized projects, miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by laws, surveys and detailed studies and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$125,459,000, to remain available until expended, of which funds are provided for the following projects in the amounts specified:

Yellowstone River at Glendive, Montana Study, \$150,000;

Great Egg Harbor Inlet to Townsend's Inlet, New Jersey, \$226,000; and

Project for flood control, Park River, Grafton, North Dakota, general reevaluation report, using current data, to determine whether the project is technically sound, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified, \$50,000:

Provided, That the Secretary of the Army is directed to use \$328,000 of the funds appropriated herein to implement section 211(f)(7) of Public Law 104-303 (110 Stat. 3684) and to reimburse the non-Federal sponsor a portion of the Federal share of project costs for the Hunting Bayou element of the project for flood control, Buffalo Bayou and tributaries, Texas.

CONSTRUCTION, GENERAL

For the prosecution of river and harbor, flood control, shore protection, and related projects authorized by laws; and detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of projects (including those for development with participation or under consideration for participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such studies shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction), \$1,086,586,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary for the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, as authorized by Public Law 104-303; and of which such sums as are necessary pursuant to Public Law 99-662 shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, for one-half of the costs of construction and rehabilitation of inland waterways projects, including rehabilitation costs for the Lock and Dam 25, Mississippi River, Illinois and Missouri; Lock and Dam 14, Mississippi River, Iowa; Lock and Dam 24, Part 1 and Part 2, Mississippi River, Illinois and Missouri; and Lock and Dam 3, Mississippi River, Minnesota, London Lock and Dam, Kanawha River, West Virginia; and Lock and Dam 12, Mississippi River, Iowa, projects, and of which funds are provided for the following projects in the amounts specified:

Norco Bluffs, California, \$2,200,000;
Brevard County, Florida (Shore Protection), \$1,000,000;

Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration, Florida, \$14,100,000;

St. John's County, Florida (Shore Protection), \$1,000,000;

Indianapolis Central Waterfront, Indiana, \$3,000,000;

Ohio River Flood Protection, Indiana, \$1,000,000;

Jackson County, Mississippi, \$800,000;

Minnish Waterfront Park project, Passaic River, New Jersey, \$1,500,000

Virginia Beach, Virginia (Hurricane Protection), \$17,000,000;

Upper Mingo County (including Mingo County Tributaries), Lower Mingo County (Kermit), Wayne County, and McDowell County, elements of the Levisa and Tug Forks of the Big Sandy River and Upper Cumberland River project in West Virginia, \$4,400,000; and

Lake St. Clair, Metro Beach, Michigan, section 206 project, \$100,000:

Provided, That the Secretary of the Army is directed to use \$9,000,000 of the funds appropriated herein to implement section 211(f)(6) of Public Law 104-303 (110 Stat. 3683) and to reimburse the non-Federal sponsor a portion of the Federal share of project construction costs for the flood control components comprising the Brays Bayou element of the project for flood control, Buffalo Bayou and tributaries, Texas: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is directed to use

\$2,000,000 provided herein to construct bluff stabilization measures at authorized locations for Natchez Bluff, Mississippi: *Provided further*, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be expended or obligated to begin Phase II on the John Day Drawdown study or to initiate a study of the drawdown of McNary Dam unless authorized by law: *Provided further*, That using \$200,000 of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is directed to initiate a Detailed Project Report for the Dickenson County, Virginia, element of the Levisa and Tug Forks of the Big Sandy River and Upper Cumberland River, West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky, project: *Provided further*, That \$100,000 of the funding appropriated herein for section 107 navigation projects may be used by the Corps of Engineers to produce a decision document, and, if favorable, signing a project cost sharing agreement with a non-Federal project sponsor for the Rochester Harbor, New York (CSX Swing Bridge), project: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, may use \$1,500,000 of funding appropriated herein to initiate construction of shoreline protection measures at Assateague Island, Maryland: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, may use Construction, General funding as directed in Public Law 105-62 and Public Law 105-245 to initiate construction of an emergency outlet from Devils Lake, North Dakota, to the Sheyenne River, except that the funds shall not become available unless the Secretary of the Army determines that an emergency (as defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) exists with respect to the emergency need for the outlet and reports to Congress that the construction is technically sound, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the economic justification for the emergency outlet shall be prepared in accordance with the principles and guidelines for economic evaluation as required by regulations and procedures of the Army Corps of Engineers for all flood control projects, and that the economic justification be fully described, including the analysis of the benefits and costs, in the project plan documents: *Provided further*, That the plans for the emergency outlet shall be reviewed and, to be effective, shall contain assurances provided by the Secretary of State, after consultation with the International Joint Commission, that the project will not violate the requirements or intent of the Treaty Between the United States and Great Britain Relating to Boundary Waters Between the United States and Canada, signed at Washington January 11, 1909 (36 Stat. 2448; TS 548) (commonly known as the "Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909"): *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Army shall submit the final plans and other documents for the emergency outlet to Congress: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this Act or any other Act for any fiscal year may be used by the Secretary of the Army to carry out the portion of the feasibility study of the Devils Lake Basin, North Dakota, authorized under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102-377), that addresses the needs of the area for stabilized lake levels through inlet controls, or to otherwise study any facility or carry out any activity that would permit the transfer of water from the Missouri River Basin into Devils Lake.